

Creek in the northeastern sector of the planning area. The rolling topography provides fairly good drainage for the area, with the direction of flow in a general east to west direction. With the steep banks that are prevalent with most streams in this area, flood plains are generally narrow and fall close to the streambeds.

From the standpoint of geology, Maiden is located on a broad belt of quartz-mica which is under the western half of the planning area and primarily a band of hornblende gneiss to the west. Common minerals are present in the soils (i.e., sillimanite, kyanite and garnet) but none to the extent that commercial mining is currently feasible. (Early iron mining gave the town its start about 1804, but this activity was discontinued by the late 1800's.)

Soils in the planning area are predominantly of the Cecil group (includes Lloyd, Madison, Appling, Seneca and Starr varieties).* A good portion of this group is of loam, sandy loam or gravelly loam types of soil, which have very little limiting properties for such urban uses as residential subdivisions, industrial or commercial development, roads and intensive recreation development. There are some problem areas where such uses would be involved, however. Map 3 gives a generalized indication of the more severe problem areas as compiled from a recent soil map prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.** As shown, there is considerable acreage in the vicinity of Maiden that would offer problems for such items as sewerage systems (public or "community" systems and septic tank fields), recreation (even to picnic areas and camp sites in some areas along major streambeds -- due primarily to slope or flood hazard), light industries and trafficways (roads subject to more than light traffic). Much

*Source: USDA soil map, provided by Mr. C. Wilson Spencer, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Newton, N.C.

**Source: Based on soil map listed above, with interpretation assistance by J. L. Zimmerman, Soil Scientist, Area 3 Soil Conservation Service, Salisbury, N. C.